

RESOURCES for AGING
November 7, 2005 (Vol. 2 No. 15)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the semi-monthly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on a group e-mail list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed online at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS

Governor Appoints Five New CSA Commissioners

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has appointed five new Commissioners to serve on the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA), pursuant to Section 3 of the Older Michiganians Act. The five are:

Cheryl J. Bollinger, a Democrat from **Mason** in Ingham County, for a term expiring July 28, 2008. She succeeds **Jewal C. Ware** whose term has expired.

Annette C. Guilfoyle, an Independent from **Grand Rapids** in Kent County, for a term expiring July 28, 2008. She succeeds **Dona J. Wishart** whose term has expired.

Chung-Keung Leung, an Independent from **Bloomfield Hills** in Oakland County, for a term expiring July 28, 2008. He succeeds **Liana Bachand** whose term has expired.

Thomas G. Rau, a Republican from **Brighton** in Livingston County, for a term expiring July 28, 2008. He succeeds **Christina L. Clark** whose term has expired.

William H. Walters, IV, a Republican from **Brown City** in Sanilac County, for a term expiring July 28, 2008. He succeeds **Robert W. Littke** whose term has expired.

The CSA advises OSA, the Governor, and State Legislators on matters relating to policies and programs for older and aging persons in Michigan. The CSA also promotes senior adult interests within state government and local communities.

The 15-members of the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Michigan Senate. They serve three (3) year terms, and may be re-appointed by the Governor.

CSA Commissioners must reflect the broad geographical balance, as well as the distribution of older persons in the state. Also, a majority must be age 60 or older, and no more than eight can be from the same political party.

Program to Certify Elder Friendly Communities Takes Shape, Plans State Assembly

The number of senior adults in our state is increasing. Over the next 15 years, it is estimated the number of those age 65 or older will increase by 500,000 or 41 percent!

According to the Michigan Vital Aging Think Tank (at Michigan State University (MSU)), “a majority of these seniors will be vital, independent residents who can be a source of civic, social and financial capital. They can serve as volunteers and activists, board members and elected officials, funders and community leaders.”

But this means communities must make a commitment to become “elder-friendly” to help ease the way for this growing segment of our population. That is why OSA has joined with the Michigan Vital Aging Think Tank, the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA), the State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) and MSU Extension to initiate the Certified Elder Friendly Community Project.

The assets a community will need in order to become certified as “elder friendly” are now being determined by CSA with support from the Think Tank. They include:

- (1) a high level of personal safety and security;
- (2) transportation (including airplanes, trains and buses);
- (3) readily available supportive community systems (cell phone service, high-speed Internet and multi-channel TV);
- (4) commercial viability (available businesses and services); affordable housing (that matches a variety of life styles);
- (5) access to health care (to meet medical needs now and in the future);
- (6) enriching opportunities (including life-long learning); recreation to meet diverse needs (including walking and bicycling); and
- (7) spiritual connections (a variety of welcoming places to worship).

Communities seeking certification will be expected to engage individuals, families, groups, institutions and organizations in developing and maintaining these assets. Senior adults also will have to be considered when community decisions are made. Eventually, a community will be required to complete a “certified Elder Friendly application” that will be reviewed by the Think Tank and SAC. A recommendation will then be made to the Commission which will make the final decision on certification.

A Michigan Elder Friendly State Assembly, sponsored by the Think Tank, will be held **November 29** at the MSU Kellogg Center in **East Lansing** for those from around the state who are interested in spending a day focused on how working together to improve our communities can improve the quality of life for Michigan’s growing senior adult population.

The morning session will discuss work currently underway in several Michigan communities. After a networking lunch, the afternoon session will talk about the City of Calgary Elder Friendly Community Project.

For more information about the State Assembly, or to request information and training from Think Tank staff members on how your community can become certified as “elder friendly,” call 517/432-8740 or e-mail to mconaul@msu.edu. Also, you can call **Sherri King** at OSA (517/373-4064) or e-mail her at kings1@michigan.gov.

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **November 18** in conjunction with a public hearing to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. **December 15** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **January 10, 2006** at a location to be determined. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

State Plan Hearings

OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) conducted one public hearing (**October 21** at the Zibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in **Mt. Pleasant**), and will conduct five more hearings this year to obtain public input to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens.

Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities for senior adults, and other issues important to senior adults are invited to attend these free public hearings to express their opinions to policy makers.

All of the remaining public hearings will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

November 18 at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**

March 17, 2006 at ACCESS in **Dearborn**

March 21, 2006 at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo**

March 29, 2006 at the U of M Flint Conference Center in **Flint**

May 19, 2006 at the Little Bear East Arena & Community Center in **St. Ignace**

In addition to verbal comments by interested individuals at the six hearings, written comments may be submitted by **May 20, 2006** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the OSA website (www.miseniors.net) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Long-Term Care Insurance Planning Seminar, sponsored by the Gratiot County Commission on Aging **November 16** at the Commission on Aging Building in **Ithaca**. For more information, call 989/875-5246.

Understanding Depression, sponsored by St. Mary Mercy Hospital **November 21** at the Northville Senior Center in **Northville**. For more information or to register, call 248/349-4140.

Medicare Part D Plan Analysis: Issues for People in the Community, Nursing Homes and Assisted Living, an online seminar sponsored by the Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. **November 29** on the Internet. For more information, go to www.medicareadvocacy.org or call toll-free 860/456-7790.

Michigan Elder Friendly State Assembly, sponsored by the Michigan Vital Aging Think Tank, will be held **November 29** at the MSU Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/432-8740 or e-mail to mcconaul@msu.edu. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS section of this issue (above).

National Native American Conference, sponsored by the US Administration for Children and Families **December 7-9** at the Palm Springs Convention Center in **Palm Springs, CA**. For more information, go to www.namsinc.org/acfconference or call toll-free 800/416-6204.

2006 Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 27-28, 2006** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

Case Management Across the Lifespan, a conference for health care professionals interested or engaged in case management sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Nursing and the MSU School of Social Work, **November 17** at the MSU Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. For more information, go to www.nursing.msu.edu/continuingeducation.asp or call toll-free 800/605-6424, option 6.

7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled "Learning, Laughing and Caring" sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29, 2006** to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Working on the Go: Palm Handheld Tips and Tricks, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on the basics of using your Palm to manage your

work **November 10** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

Grantsmanship Training Program, sponsored by the Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) to offer grant-related training and information **November 14-18** at Lansing Community College in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.tgci.com or call toll-free 800/421-9512.

Low Cost Ways to Market Your Nonprofit, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) **November 15** at the Foster Community Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

New Supports in Old Europe: Healthy Aging and Intellectual Disability, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 15** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Finally! Getting Governance Right!, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on how to build a high-performing board of directors that is focused on strategic leadership **November 16** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

Facility Projects: Funding and Financing Strategies, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on how to pay for the project by effectively combining fundraising and strategy **November 17** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

Running for Office Training, sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission for women running for public office **January 20-21, 2006** at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdcr or call 517/373-2884.

MICHIGAN FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior, a training for managers and supervisors sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **November 18** at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in **Jackson**; and **December 2** at the Comfort Inn in **Farmington Hills**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **December 5** at the Comfort Suites of Marquette in **Marquette**; **December 6** at the Waterfront Inn & Conference Center in **Traverse City**; **December 7** at The Radisson East Hotel in **Grand Rapids**; and **December 8** at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in **Flint**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Leadership Development & Team Building, a training for managers, supervisors and team leaders to learn ways to motivate, inspire, lead and succeed, sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **November 15** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Homeless Awareness Week, proclaimed by **Gov. Jennifer Granholm** on behalf of the citizens of Michigan to be observed **November 13-19**. For more information, go to www.mihomeless.org.

New Supports in Old Europe: Healthy Aging and Intellectual Disability, a free 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 15** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Grandparent Caregiving and Hypertension, a free 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **December 2** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.ioq.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Understanding Alzheimer's, an orientation program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **December 14** at the Tri-County Office on Aging (AAA-6) in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

Embracing Challenges During Life Threatening Illnesses, a conference for professional caregivers sponsored **November 15** by the Windsor/Essex Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) at the Ciociaro Club in **Oldcastle, Ontario CANADA**. For more information, go to www.we.ccac-ont.ca, e-mail to amy.ouellette@we.ccac-ont.ca, or call 519/258-1088, ext. 339.

Nurturing Families Through Recovery, a training sponsored by the Institute for Health and Recovery **November 16** at the Department of Public Health Greater Boston Regional Office in **Roxbury, MA**. For more information, go to www.healthrecovery.org or call 617/661-3991.

Spiritual Care for All Disciplines, an all-day seminar to explore the principles behind spiritual care and its effect on providing quality care with older adults sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **November 16** at The Alhambra Retirement Community in **Alhambra, CA** and **November 17** at the Wesley Palms Retirement Community in **San Diego, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Getting Ahead of the Curve: Business and Aging, the 27th Annual Professional

Development Institute and Trade Show sponsored by the Partnership for Aging (a partnership between the Southwest Society on Aging and the Mid-America Congress on Aging) **November 17-19** at the Indiana Westin Downtown in **Indianapolis, IN**. For more information or to register, go to www.partnerships for aging or call 785/539-5300.

GSA 58th Annual Scientific Meeting, a conference entitled "The Interdisciplinary Mandate" sponsored by The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in cooperation with the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) **November 18-22** at the Orlando World Center Marriott in **Orlando, FL**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.com or call 202/842-1275.

Celebrate Direct-Care Workers, a conference sponsored by Pioneer Alliance and the Direct Care Alliance **November 30-December 2** at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in **Orlando, FL**. For more information, go to www.celebratedirectcareworkers.org or call 202/223-8355, ext. 109.

2005 National Triad Training Symposium, sponsored by the National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI) **December 5-8** at the Bayview Resort & Spa at the Grand Casino in **Biloxi, MS**. For more information, go to www.nationaltriad.org or call toll-free 800/424-7827.

Governor's Conference on Aging, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging **December 7-9** at the Marriott Downtown Chicago in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, call 217/785-3377.

2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA), entitled "The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action" conducted by the Administration on Aging (AoA) **December 11-14** in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.whcoa.gov.

Guardianship Mediation Training, sponsored by the Stetson University College of Law **January 9-14, 2006** at the College of Law in **Gulfport, FL**. For more information, go to www.law.stetson.edu/cle or call 813/228-0226.

Spiritual Assessment, an all-day seminar sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes to explain how spiritual assessment can be used as a tool and why it is needed **January 19, 2006** at the Claremont Manor Retirement Community in **Claremont, CA** and **January 20, 2006** at the Fredericka Manor Care Center in **Chula Vista, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/2396267.

World Parkinson Congress, sponsored by the World Parkinson Congress and the National Institutes of Health **February 22-26, 2006** at the Washington Convention Center in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.worldpdcongress.org or call 972/395-1119.

2006 Joint Conference, entitled "Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves" co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19, 2006** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to www.asaging.org.

Tools for Spiritual Care, an all-day seminar to explore various techniques for spiritual

care through case studies sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **March 29, 2006** at the Villa Gardens Retirement Community in **Pasadena, CA** and **March 30, 2006** at Mt. Miguel Covenant Village in **Spring Valley, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

FEDERAL REGISTER

(October 17-November 4)

The Federal Register is the daily publication of the National Archives and Records Administration. It outlines rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential documents.

To access the Federal Register, go to www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html, the GPO Access homepage. Up will come "Federal Register: Browse." Also "Current Issue" or "Back Issues." For "Back Issues," select the year and click on "Go." For current year issues, select "2005" and click on "GO." Then click on the date of the issue you want to access.

SSA Announces Cost of Living Increase

See the Federal Register dated **October 25** (Vol. 70, No. 205). Go to "Social Security Administration" and see "Notices, Social Security Benefits." This notice from the Social Security Administration (SSA) announces that the SSA Commissioner has determined the cost-of-living increase and other determinations for 2006, including the revised table of "special minimum benefits." They include a 4.1 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits under the Social Security Act, effective for December, 2005; and an increase in the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) monthly benefit amounts under the Social Security Act for 2006 to \$603 for an eligible individual, \$904 for an eligible individuals with an eligible spouse; and \$302 for an essential person. Also, the monthly exempt amounts under the Social Security retirement earnings test for taxable years ending in calendar year 2006 will be \$1,040 and \$2,770. For information on eligibility or claiming benefits, call toll-free 800/772-1213 or go to www.socialsecurity.gov. For additional information, call 410/965-3013.

CMS Posts Nurse Staffing Information for LTC Facilities

See the Federal Register dated **October 28** (Vol. 70, No. 208). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Rules, Medicare and Medicaid." This final rule from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **December 27**, finalizes provisions specified in the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act (BIPA) that establishes new data collection, posting and recordkeeping requirements for skilled nursing home facilities (SNFs) and nursing facilities (NFs). It requires that, on a daily basis for each shift, the SNFs and NFs must post nurse staffing data for the licensed and unlicensed staff directly responsible for resident care in the facility. Facility census data must also be posted. This is part of a CMS outreach initiative to provide beneficiaries, the families and the public with access to updated data and other information to assist them in making healthcare decisions. For more information, call 410/786-5646 or 410/786-3164.

Corporation Announces Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **October 31** (Vol. 70, No. 209). Go to “Corporation for National and Community Service” and see “Proposed Rules.” This Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda for the Corporation for National and Community Service announces the regulations that the Corporation will have under development, revision or review during the next year. The purpose for publishing this agenda is to give notice of any regulatory activity by the agency in order to provide the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. For more information, call 202/606-6677.

HHS Announces Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **October 31** (Vol. 70, No. 209). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “Proposed Rules.” This Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda inventories the rulemaking actions under development by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and presents for public scrutiny a forecast of the rulemaking activities that HHS expects to undertake during the foreseeable future. The purpose is to encourage public participation in the regulatory process by providing as early as possible summarized information about regulatory actions under consideration. Members of the public wishing to communicate to HHS their views on the potential rulemaking outlined in this agenda are encouraged to do so. Send comments to the HHS Executive Secretary, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 603H, Washington, DC.

HUD Announces Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **October 31** (Vol. 70, No. 209). Go to “Housing and Urban Development Department” and see “Proposed Rules.” The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is publishing its Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda to outline regulations already issued or that are expected to be issued during the next several months. The agenda also includes rules currently in effect that are under review, and describes those regulations that may affect small entities, as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The purpose of this agenda is to encourage more effective public participation in the regulatory process by providing the public with early information about pending regulatory activities. For more information, call 202/708-3055.

SSA Announces Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **October 31** (Vol. 70, No. 209). Go to “Social Security Administration” and see “Proposed Rules.” The Social Security Administration (SSA) administers the retirement, survivors and disability insurance programs under the Social Security Act; the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program under the Act; and Special Benefits to certain World War II Veterans. This SSA Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda contains a brief description of all regulatory actions under development or review, expected to be under development or review for the next 12 months, or completed since the previous semi-annual agenda was published. For further information about a specific action, call 410/965-1887.

HUD to Fund Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Disabled Elders

See the Federal Register dated **November 2** (Vol. 70, No. 211). Go to "Housing and Urban Development" and see "Notices, Grants and Cooperative Agreements." This notice from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces the availability of funding for 2005 to provide mainstream housing opportunities for persons with disabilities, elders as well as younger individuals. The purpose of the HUD Mainstream Program is to provide vouchers under the Housing Choice Voucher Program to enable persons of all ages with disabilities to access affordable private housing of their choice. Persons with disabilities include those, who have a physical, mental, or emotional impairment that is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; substantially impede their ability to live independently; or are of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions. \$10.2 million is available to fund approximately 250 grants. Public housing agencies (PHAs) and non-profit organizations that provide services to the disabled are eligible to apply. Grant applications must be submitted through www.grants.gov and must be received by **January 3, 2006**. For more information, call 202/708-0477, ext. 4064.

President Proclaims November as National Diabetes Month

See the Federal Register dated **November 4** (Vol. 70, No. 213). Go to "Presidential Documents" and see "Proclamations, Special Observances." This proclamation by the President designates **November** as National Diabetes Month, 2005. Americans of all ages and backgrounds live with diabetes. Nearly 21 million Americans have this disease, and it is estimated more than six million have not been diagnosed, and are unaware they have it. Citizens need to be educated about diabetes. National Diabetes Month is an opportunity to educate people about the risk factors and symptoms associated with diabetes and what they can do to help prevent and treat it.

President Proclaims November as National Hospice Month

See the Federal Register dated **November 4** (Vol. 70, No. 213). Go to "Presidential Documents" and see "Proclamations, Special Observances." This proclamation by the President designates **November** as National Hospice Month, 2005. It recognizes hospice caregivers, healthcare professionals and volunteers for their contributions to help those facing terminal illness receive quality care. They are building a more compassionate society where life is valued. This month also recognizes the courage and strength of terminally ill patients and their families. Citizens are urged to observe it with appropriate programs and activities.

LEGISLATION

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the

bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a “PDF” or “TXT” box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, e-mail comments to **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at osadirector@michigan.gov, or mail them to her at OSA (P.O. Box 30676 in Lansing, 48909-8176).

New House Bills (October 17-November 4)

House Bill (HB) 5298 (2005)

Financial institutions; savings banks; reporting of elderly financial abuse; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 354 of 1996. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 10-18-05.

House Bill (HB) 5299 (2005)

Financial institutions; credit unions; reporting of elderly financial abuse; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 215 of 2003. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 10-18-05.

House Bill (HB) 5312 (2005)

Property tax; delinquent taxes; property tax foreclosure process; extend to three years. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Joel Sheltrown** (D-West Branch) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 10-18-05.

House Bill (HB) 5325 (2005)

See the “Bills that have Moved” section (below).

House Bill (HB) 5336 (2005)

State agencies (existing); community health; health information technology commission; create. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 39 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 10-19-05.

House Bill (HB) 5344 (2005)

Income tax; refunds; direct deposit of income tax refunds (by grandparents and others) into MESP (Michigan Education Savings Program) and MET (Michigan Education Trust) accounts; allow. Sponsored by **Rep. Tim Moore** (R-Farwell) and co-sponsored by eight others. Referred to the House Committee on Higher Education and Career Preparation 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5348 (2005)

Insurance; health; insurance code long-term care; make Blue Cross and Blue Shield

subject to. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5349 (2005)

Insurance; other; long-term care; provide for general amendments. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 36 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5375 (2005)

Torts; immunity; retired physicians providing volunteer health care for medically indigent individuals; provide immunity for. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 17 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 10-26-05.

House Bill (HB) 5378 (2005)

Property tax; assessments; definition of transfer of ownership; revise to exclude transfer of principal residence to a senior citizen. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. John Pastor** (R-Livonia) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 10-27-05.

House Bill (HB) 5387 (2005)

Insurance; health; catastrophic coverage task force; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Andy Dillon** (D-Redford) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5388 (2005)

Health; pharmaceuticals; intrastate prescription drug purchasing program; create. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Andy Dillon** (D-Redford) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5389 (2005)

Human services; long-term care; consumer education and choice of long-term care options; promote and establish single point of entry services. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers) and co-sponsored by 41 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 5392 (2005)

Disabilities; accessible electronic information service; establish and provide funding source. Creates new act. Sponsored by **Rep. Chris Kolb** (D-Ann Arbor) and co-sponsored by 12 others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 11-1-05.

New Senate Bills
(October 17-November 4)

Senate Bill (SB) 810 (2005)

Elections; absent voters; mailing of absent voter ballot applications to qualified and registered voters 60 years of age or older; allow even if application not requested.

Amends Public Act (PA) 116 of 1954. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Highland Park) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 10-18-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 818 (2005)

Elections; absent voters; mailing of absent voter ballot applications by local clerks to eligible absent voters; allow even if application not requested. Amends Public Act (PA) 116 of 1954. Sponsored by **Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 10-19-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 819 (2005)

Human services; medical services; certain provisions that allow sheltering assets from Medicaid; revise. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Michael Switalski** (D-Roseville). Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-19-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 820 (2005)

Human services; medical services; estate recovery program for Medicaid; implement. Tie barred with SB 821 (2005) and SB 822 (2005). Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Michael Switalski** (D-Roseville). Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-19-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 821 (2005)

Health; code; filing of death record with the department or estate recovery unit; require. Tie barred with SB 820 (2005) and SB 822 (2005). Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Michael Switalski** (D-Roseville). Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-19-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 822 (2005)

Probate; wills and estates; estate recovery program for Medicaid; implement. Tie barred with SB 820 (2005) and SB 821 (2005). Amends Public Act (PA) 386 of 1998. Sponsored by **Sen. Michael Switalski** (D-Roseville). Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-19-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 841 (2005)

Occupations; hearing aid; board of hearing aid dealers; establish and clarify license categories. Tie barred with SB 842 (2005). Amends Public Act (PA) 299 of 1980. Sponsored by **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland). Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-25-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 848 (2005)

Insurance; health; offering of wellness coverage with premium rebate; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Sen. Tom George** (R-Portage) and co-sponsored by 21 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 849 (2005)

Insurance; health care corporations; offering of wellness coverage with premium rebate; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 350 of 1980. Sponsored by **Sen. Tom George** (R-Portage) and co-sponsored by 21 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 862 (2005)

Income tax; credit; credit for individual who purchases health coverage insurance or health coverage that includes a wellness component; provide for. Tie barred with SB 848 and SB 849. Amends Public Act (PA) 281 of 1967. Sponsored by **Sen. Tom George** (R-Portage). Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

Bills that have Moved

(Since July 1)

See Changes to **House Bill (HB) 4606**, **House Bill (HB) 4670**, **House Bill (HB) 4751**, **House Bill (HB) 4789**, **House Bill (HB) 4792**, **House Bill (HB) 5055** (now **Public Act 187**), **House Bill (HB) 5183**, **Senate Bill (SB) 88**, **Senate Bill (SB) 267**, and **Senate Bill (SB) 712**.

House Bill (HB) 4606 (2005)

The bill would amend the Public Health Code. Currently the code prohibits a health care facility (i.e., a hospital or nursing home) from giving a copy of a patient's or resident's medical record to a third party without prior authorization from the patient or resident. The bill would retain this restriction on the release of a person's medical information except as otherwise permitted or required under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA). The Public Health Code also allows a patient or resident to refuse the release of personal and medical records to a person outside the health facility or agency except as required because of a transfer to another health care facility or as required by law or third party payment contract. The bill would allow the release of these records as permitted or required under HIPPA. Furthermore, the Public Health Code entitles a patient or resident to inspect, or receive for a reasonable fee, a copy of his or her own medical record. The bill would specify that this would be done in accordance with the Medical Records Access Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Stephen Adamini** (D-Marquette) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 10-17-05 and 10-24-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-25-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-26-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-27-05.

House Bill (HB) 4670 (2005)

This bill would add a new section to the Public Health Code to create a special volunteer license for retired MDs and DOs who wish to provide medical care for the indigent and needy or in medically underserved areas of the state on a volunteer basis. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 22 others. Referred to the House Committee on House Policy 4-26-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 5-23-05. Reported with recommendation with a House substitute bill 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4751 (2005)

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act, which deals with the Medicaid program, to allow Medicaid-eligible individuals to receive services related to care (e.g., assisted living) provided in an adult foster care facility licensed under the Adult Foster Care Facility Licensing Act if certain conditions are met. The Michigan Department of Community Services (DCH) would be required to seek a waiver from the US

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to provide adult foster care-related services. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by Rep. **Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the House Committee on Family and Children Services 5-10-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-17-05. Reported with recommendation with a House substitute bill 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

House Bill (HB) 4773 (2005)

Torts; product liability; immunity from liability for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; rescind. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by Rep. **Dianne Byrum** (D-Onondaga) and co-sponsored by 37 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-11-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 4789 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to address the use of “dining assistants” by nursing homes. It would allow nursing homes to use dining assistants to feed residents who need assistance or encouragement with eating and drinking but do not have complicated feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral feedings. The use of a dining assistant would be based on a charge nurse’s assessment of the resident and that resident’s most recent plan of care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4792 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require that the Department of Community Health (DCH) transmit to a nursing home a written or electronic copy of the results of each visit and survey conducted within 10 business days after the visit. Within 24 hours after receiving the survey report, or within 24 hours after receiving notice that the department has approved a nursing home’s plan of correction, the nursing home would have to post the report in a conspicuous place in the home for public review. Within 30 days after the report or correction plan is posted, the nursing home would have to notify its residents it had been received and was posted within the nursing home, and that a summary was available through the Internet or on the DCH website. A nursing home could satisfy the notification by including a notification in a monthly newsletter or other written documentation, distributed to the resident, the resident’s family, or a designated representative. If the survey report or plan of correction includes an immediate jeopardy citation, the nursing home would be required to include a description of the citation and a description of how the situation was corrected. If the department issues a notice of an immediate jeopardy situation to a nursing home, then the nursing home would be required to post the notice, with the nursing home’s plan to rectify the situation, immediately after the removal of the immediate jeopardy situation. The notice would have to be placed in a conspicuous place for public view in the nursing home for not less than seven days. If the immediate jeopardy situation results in serious injury, or a change in the health status of a resident or residents within the nursing home, the home would be required to immediately notify the resident’s family, or

a designated representative, of the immediate jeopardy situation. In addition, the bill would require that, before renewing a license, MDCH review the most recent inspection, survey and evaluation of that facility, and any written determination made concerning a complaint filed within the previous two years. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-10-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 4811 (2005)

Torts; liability; liability suits brought against drug manufacturers for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-19-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5071 (2005)

Consumer protection; unfair trade practices; liability for inaccurate representations concerning risks of certain drugs, medications, and supplements; clarify. Amends Public Act (PA) 331 of 1976. Sponsored by **Rep. Marie Donigan** (D-Royal Oak) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 7-27-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5081 (2005)

This bill would permit an individual who is unable to write to use his or her fingerprints as a written signature. That is, visible fingerprints would be included as a "paper mark." Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved by the House 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-7-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Governmental Operations 9-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5139 (2005)

Civil procedure, statute of limitations; drug product liability cases previously prohibited because of FDA approval defense; allow to be commenced within 3 years of repeal of defense. Amends PA 236 of 1961. Tie barred with HB 4773 (2005). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 9-7-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05.

House Bill (HB) 5183 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a nursing home, county medical care facility, or home for the aged to provide each employee who provides direct services to patients or residents with a written notice of its substance abuse policy, or a copy of that policy if the facility requires employees to submit to substance screening or abuse testing, whether random or otherwise, as a condition of

employment. The notice would be provided upon hiring. If a notice of the policy is provided in lieu of a copy, the notice will contain the following: (a) Circumstances under which an employee may be required to submit to a test. (b) Consequences for refusing to submit to a test. (c) Procedures for challenging the accuracy of the test. (d) Notice and testing requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-15-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. House substitute bill adopted 10-18-05. House Fiscal Analysis (HFA) 10-19-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 10-19-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 10-20-05.

House Bill (HB) 5325 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a hospital, during flu season, to inform each elderly person admitted to the hospital for a period of 24 hours or more that the influenza vaccine is available. This would apply unless a flu vaccine shortage has been declared, causing a hospital to have an inadequate supply in stock. If an elderly person requests to be vaccinated, and a physician, physician's assistant, or certified nurse practitioner determines that the vaccine is in the patient's best interest, the hospital would have to administer the vaccination to the elderly person before he or she is discharged, and document the vaccination in the patient's medical record. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-18-02. Referred with recommendation without amendment(s) 11-1-05. Referred to second reading 11-1-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 43 (2005)

This bill would amend the Income Tax Act to allow a physician with a medical care practice in a designated health professional shortage area to claim a \$2,500 income tax credit for up to three consecutive years beginning after December 31, 2005, or claim the credit for any three years within a five year period if he or she interrupted his or her practice for a continuing education program or a sabbatical. It also would reduce the amount of the credit for a physician with a part-time practice. This credit would be for a physician who provides primary care to patients, including indigent patients, as part of his or her full-time or part-time medical care services in a designated health professional shortage area. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit). Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-25-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-8-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill (6-14-05). Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-15-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 267 (2005)

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05 and 6-9-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate as amended 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-22-05. House substitute bill adopted by the Senate 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05. Referred to Conference Committee 9-13-05. Conference Report 9-20-05. Conference Report received by the Senate 10-11-05.

Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-11-05. Senate reconsidered nonconcurrence with House Bill 10-11-05. For final disposition of budget, see House Bill (HB) 4831, now Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005.

Senate Bill (SB) 334 (2005)

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05 and 5-24-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 9-14-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 712 (2005)

This bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to allow recreational card playing at nonresidential senior centers. Currently Chapter 44 of the code, which regulates gambling, does not apply to card playing at senior citizen housing facilities. The bill would extend that exemption to senior centers that are not housing facilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis). Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 8-31-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 10-19-05 and 11-1-05. Substitute Bill concurred in by the Senate 11-1-05. Passed by the Senate 11-3-05. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 11-3-05.

2005 Public Acts

House Bill (HB) 4188 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4434 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription

processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 352 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 73 (2005)

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred to HB 4434. It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4405 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4436 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 348 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R-Novi) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05,**

and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.

Senate Bill (SB) 271 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4831 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4996 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for “dentally underserved” patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 5055 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 187 of 2005

This bill modifies the nursing home and hospital Quality Assurance Assessment Programs (QAAPs) to extend sunsets, reflect the amount of tax retained by the State, and changes the way the nursing home QAAP is assessed. The QAAP includes county-owned nursing homes for the first time. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-27-05, and assigned PA 187 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

FOUNDATIONS

Grand Rapids Community Foundation Issues RFP for Grants

The Grand Rapids Community Foundation has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to award up to five 18-month grants, averaging \$50,000/each to promote social and civic engagement by older adults.

Research on the attributes of elder-friendly communities indicates that social and civic engagement is an important component because it provides significant benefits to both

individuals and the community. Older adults who are engaged in their communities remain physically and mentally fit longer.

That is why the Grand Rapids Foundation is seeking proposals for projects focused on increasing social and civic engagement through volunteerism and employment among senior adults in Kent County. It is interested in funding projects that create substantive, meaningful opportunities for older adult involvement in volunteer or paid work, with an emphasis on quality of employment opportunities rather than simply increasing the number of available positions.

The foundation seeks to support innovative approaches to enhancing or developing Kent County's capacity to support senior adults who want to volunteer their capabilities across a broad spectrum of skills and professions to better their community. It also supports elders who want to champion a cause to solve a community issue, or continue with paid employment. In addition, the foundation wants to build the capacity of nonprofit public or for-profit organizations to engage the capabilities of senior adults through effective outreach, recruitment, management, training and retention.

Projects may involve introducing innovations in one organization or through a collaborative of multiple organizations to increase volunteer involvement and civic engagement by older adults, and/or to enhance work-related skills and improve opportunities for meaningful employment.

A higher level of funding may be available for an applicant interested in starting an Experience Corps project.

Eligible applicants include all nonprofits classified as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and/or public agencies located or providing services in Kent County. Applicants must provide supporting documentation to indicate they will provide a 20% cash or in-kind match of the grant amount.

There are two stages to the application process. All applicants must submit a brief proposal by **December 1**. A limited number of these applicants will be notified by **January 6** and invited to submit a full proposal by **February 13**. Grant recipients will implement their projects **June-November, 2006**.

For more information, call **Amy Price** at the foundation (616/454-1751) or e-mail her at aprice@grfoundation.org. Also, for more information or to download an application, go to www.grfoundation.org.

OTHER RESOURCES

Nominations Requested for Governor's Traffic Safety Awards

The Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) is accepting nominations for its 2006 "Outstanding Contributions to Traffic Safety Awards" to honor organizations and individuals for outstanding contributions to traffic safety in Michigan. These include the best of Michigan's traffic safety community who have been motivated to seek changes and make improvements, either over the last decade, or over the past year.

Individuals or organizations may be nominated. Nominations are made in two categories: "Richard H. Austin Long-Term Traffic Safety Achievements" (involving a sustained, long-term contribution of 10 years or longer) and "Outstanding Traffic Safety Achievements During Calendar Year 2005." An individual or organization (coalition, association, program, agency, etc.) can be nominated only in one category.

Nominees must be a Michigan resident or an organization located in the state. Several Michigan programs and agencies now conduct programs for older drivers. They focus on traffic safety awareness for senior adults; provide information and training to help senior adult drivers adjust to changes brought on by the aging process; gather data about accidental traffic deaths among older drivers; or provide effective transportation alternatives (such as volunteer drivers) to provide mobility for frail senior adults who might otherwise attempt to drive.

Examples of these programs include the Driver Safety Program sponsored by AARP (each month at various locations around the state), the Senior Driving Awareness Program sponsored by Area Agency on Aging 1B (AAA-1B), and the Oakland County Traffic Improvement Association. Also, a senior adult crossing guard has been recognized by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission for providing long-term traffic safety for school children pedestrians.

Another example occurred last September when Senior Resources (AAA-14) sponsored a one-day Older Driver Traffic Safety Workshop in Muskegon. Funded by a grant from OSA, the workshop addressed older driver traffic safety challenges and solutions. It also educated participants about Excessive Older Driver Crash Profiles, as well as county resources and networks that address older driver traffic safety challenges and solutions.

Completed award nominations must provide the name of the nominee and nominator, the award type, affiliation, traffic safety award category, and "safety program area." This year, one safety program area is the "older driver."

Traffic Safety Award nominations must be received by **December 2**, and the awards will be presented **March 1, 2006** at the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit in **Lansing**. To obtain a nomination form or for more information, contact **Pamela Hall** at OSA (517/3739361) or e-mail her at hallpamela@michigan.gov

Library Provides Homebound Delivery Service

Plymouth and Plymouth Township senior adults who are physically unable to come to the Plymouth District Library due to a permanent or temporary disability are eligible for the library's delivery service. Books and audiobooks are delivered once/month to those who sign up for the service. It is sponsored by the library in partnership with the Plymouth Community Council on Aging. For more information, go to www.plymouthlibrary.org or call 734/453-0750, ext. 240.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor

Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

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